



COMMITTEE of the WHOLE

CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES
June 10, 2013
5:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

M. Goodman-Hinnershitz, D. Sterner, S. Marmarou, D. Reed, R. Corcoran, F. Acosta

OTHERS PRESENT:

L. Kelleher, C. Younger, D. Cituk, M. Bembenick, C. Edwards, D. Hollinger, S. Hart, E. Lloyd, V. Spencer

The Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm by Council President Acosta.

I. CDBG Action Plan Amendment re Fire Equipment

Ms. Edwards explained that the Fire Department has requested \$55K from un-programmed CDBG funds, which will be a match for the FEMA grant that will purchase protective fire gear for the Fire Department. This will reduce the City's annual exposure and generate approximately \$400K in savings.

Chief Hollinger stated that protective fire gear generally lasts for 10 years. This grant will recoup the money spent to outfit the new employees hired under the SAFER Grant.

Council approved placing this legislation on the June 24th Consent Agenda.

II. Rec Fee Amendment

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the Rec Commission has increased the Rec Fees. This ordinance will correct the City's Fee Schedule to reflect the changes. The ordinance will be introduced at the June 24th Regular Meeting.

III. Agenda Review

Consent Agenda

A. Resolution - promoting Gail S. Knauer from the rank of Paramedic/Firefighter to Lieutenant in

Ms. Kelleher stated that this promotion is has no financial impact as the promotion will replace a retired employee.

Award of Contract - for Furnishing Bituminous Materials and Asphalt Cements for Pick-up for 2013 to South Reading Blacktop, Division of Reading Materials, 148 Angstadt Lane, Birdsboro, who is the low bidder at the unit prices submitted for an estimated total bid price of \$119,200.00 (**Purchasing**)
Page 12-15

Mr. Acosta stated that this Award of Contract is for the purchase of blacktop for paving and pothole repair.

Resolutions

Resolution 38-2012 - approving the undertaking of a project by the Reading Area Water Authority (RAWA) for the operation and/or acquisition of a certain sewer collection, conveyance and pumping system serving the Berks Park 78 Owners Association in Bethel Township (RAWA) ***Reviewed at 5-6 COW; Tabled at 5-28 Regular Mtg PAGE 22***

Mr. Acosta stated that a meeting was arranged with the RAWA Executive Director last week. As no one agreed to attend the meeting, the resolution will be moved forward for a vote.

Resolution — appointing Odelia White to the Housing Authority (**Nom & Appts**) **PAGE 23**

Resolution — reappointing David Beane to the Environmental Advisory Council (**Nom & Appts**) **PAGE 24**

Resolution — appointing John Kramer to the Main Street Board (**Nom & Appts**) **PAGE 25**

Mr. Acosta stated that Ms. White is currently a Housing Authority resident. He stated that he questioned the need to appoint two residents to the Housing Authority. He stated that Ms. Kelleher spoke with Mr. Luckey who explained that Ms. Mathies is currently the resident representative however, an increase in health problems has prevented Ms. Mathies from attending meetings, which has created quorum issues. Mr. Luckey would like to appoint Ms. White now and have her replace Ms. Mathies when Ms. Mathies term expires at the end of 2013. He stated that Ms. Mathies has served on the Housing Authority for approximately 20 years.

IV. Charter Review Commission Budget

Mr. Acosta stated that he requested information from the Auditor and the Administration on Friday morning but has not received a response. A draft budget was distributed to Council requesting a budget of \$20,000 comprised of the following:

- \$2,600 – Recording Secretary (\$20 per hour for 5 hours a week)
- \$10,000 – Legal (\$200 per hour)
- Printing - \$4,000
- Consultant - \$1,000

- Operating Costs - \$1,000
- Advertising - \$1,400

Mr. Cituk explained that the last Charter Review Commission had a budget of \$15,000 but only spent \$8,800. The largest expense was \$7,000 for independent legal counsel. He stated that during this review Mr. Younger has agreed to advise the Commission; however, there are areas that the Commission will need to consult with a neutral independent attorney.

Mr. Cituk stated that the Commission did consider having one of the members serve as the Recording Secretary but decided that the person taking minutes would have a difficult time participating in the discussion.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz agreed with the need to have proper minutes but suggested that a cost effective alternative be explored.

Mr. Acosta and Ms. Reed agreed with the need to find a cost effective approach to keeping meeting minutes.

In response to a question, Mr. Cituk stated that the \$20,000 would be transferred from the Contingency Fund. He assured Council that the Commission would be cost conscious and would work to save money.

There was a discussion on some of the line items and a suggestion to reduce the budget to \$15,000. Mr. Acosta suggested introducing the ordinance on June 24th and discussing the amount at that time.

Council went into executive session at 5:45 pm to discuss a real estate matter regarding cell towers on Mount Penn.

The executive session and the Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

*Respectfully Submitted by
Linda A. Kelleher, CMC, City Clerk*